

Message Text

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AMEMBASSY BELGRADE

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USMISSION USBERLIN

AMEMBASSY BUCHAREST

AMEMBASSY BUDAPEST

AMCONSUL LENINGRAD

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AMEMBASSY NICOSIA

AMEMBASSY PRAGUE

AMEMBASSY SOFIA

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SUBJ: SOVIET PRESS SUMMARY FEBRUARY 12

1. MIDDLE EAST. PRAVDA COMMENTARY BY PERESADA CITES
ISRAELI'S FORMATION OF A SPECIAL GOVERNMENTAL STRATEGIC
GROUP AS EVIDENCE OF TEL AVIV'S CONTINUING MILITARY BUILDUP.

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PERESADA SAYS ISRAELI LEADERS ARE TRYING TO SHOW THAT THE

THREAT OF PREVENTIVE WAR COULD BECOME A REALITY AT ANY MOMENT. THE FANNING OF "WAR PSYCHOSIS" IS ISRAEL, PERESADA CLAIMS, IS AIMED AT DEFLECTING ISRAELI OPINION FROM CONCERN ABOUT INTERNAL ECONOMIC PROBLEMS AND AT ACHIEVING ISRAEL'S FOREIGN POLICY AIM: TO PRESSURE THE ARABS INTO PARTIAL SETTLEMENTS AIMED AT DESTROYING THE ARABS' COMMON FRONT, OR AT FREEZING A SETTLEMENT IN ITS FIRST STAGES OR DICTATING TO THE ARAB STATES SEPARATELY "ANNEXATIONIST CONDITIONS" FOR PEACE. THE FAILURE OF THESE ISRAELI EFFORTS, PERESADA ASSERTS, EXPLAINS "WHY ISRAEL AGAIN IS RELYING ON A TACTIC OF MILITARY BLACKMAIL." ONLY AN ALL-ENCOMPASSING SETTLEMENT BASED ON KNOWN UN RESOLUTIONS, HE CONCLUDES, WILL YIELD A JUST AND STABLE PEACE AND THIS CAN BE ACHIEVED ONLY AT THE GENEVA CONFERENCE WHICH THE ARABS, THE SOCIALIST COUNTRIES AND ALL PROGRESSIVE PEOPLES SUPPORT. THE COMMENT MENTIONS NEITHER THE U.S. NOR THE SECRETARY'S VISIT.

2. U.S. AND SAUDI NATIONAL GUARD. PRAVDA CARRIES A WASHINGTON-DATELINED TASS STORY ABOUT AMERICAN TRAINING OF SAUDI ARABIAN SECURITY FORCES. TASS CALLS THE TRAINING A PENTAGON AID PROGRAM IN SUPPORT OF "REACTINARY REGIMES IN THE MIDDLE EAST" AIMED AT SUPPRESSING NATIONAL-LIBERATION MOVEMENTS. THE ARTICLE--CITING U.S. PRESS SOURCES--ALLEGES THAT THE PERSONNEL INVOLVED INCLUDE MANY FORMER MEMBERS OF THE SPECIAL FORCES WHO SAW SERVICE IN VIET NAM.

3. CYPRUS. PRAVDA HAS A NICOSIA-DATELINED TASS ARTICLE REPORTING THAT THE CYPRIOT GOVERNMENT HAS SUBMITTED A PLAN TO SETTLE THE CYPRUS CRISIS. ACCORDING TO TASS THE PLAN CALLS FOR PRESERVATION OF THE CENTRAL GOVERNMENT AND CREATION OF A FEDERAL SYSTEM WITH EIGHT TURKISH CANTONS IN DIFFERENT LOCATIONS AROUND THE ISLAND. TASS REPORTS THAT TURKISH-CYPRIOT LEADER DENKTASH IS PREPARING A REPLY TO THE PROPOSAL, BUT HAS STATED THE TURKISH SIDE FAVORS A FEDERATION BASED ON TWO AUTONOMOUS REGIONS.

4. GREECE. PRAVDA ALSO CARRIES A TASS REPORT ON THE GREEK PARLIAMENTARY DEBATE ON FOREIGN POLICY. ACCORDING TO TASS KARAMANLIS ENDORSED THE CYPRIOT PLAN FOR A CYPRUS SETTLEMENT AND WELCOMES TURKEY'S ACCEPTANCE OF THE GREEK PROPOSAL TO SETTLE UNCLASSIFIED

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THE DISPUTE ABOUT AEGEAN OIL RIGHTS AT THE INTERNATIONAL COURT IN THE HAGUE. ARTICLE NOTES IN ADDITION THAT MAVROS SPOKE AGAINST FOREIGN BASES IN GREECE, THAT PAPANDREOU CALLED FOR GREECE'S TOTAL WITHDRAWAL FROM NATO AND THAT COMMUNIST DELEGATION WALK OUT OF THE PARLIAMENTARY SESSION WHEN IT WAS DENIED THE RIGHT TO SPEAK.

5. PORTUGAL. PRESS GIVES HEAVY PLAN TO THE PORTUGUESE

GOVERNMENT'S ANNOUNCEMENT THAT ELECTIONS WILL TAKE PLACE
APRIL 12. PRAVDA'S TASS REPORT ASSERTS THAT THE GOVERNMENT'S
ANNOUNCEMENT HAS DEALT A BLOW TO POLITICAL SPECULATION IN THE
WEST AND IN PORTUGAL THAT THE PORTUGUESE REGIME WOULD DELAY
THE ELECTIONS INDEFINITELY.

6. CONVENTION ON BACTERIOLOGICAL WEAPONS. ALL MAJOR DAILIES
FRONT PAGE REPORTS--INCLUDING PHOTOS-- ABOUT SOVIET RATIFICATION
OF THE CONVENTION. PRAVDA AND IZVESTIYA GIVE LENGTHY SUMMARY
OF GROMYKO'S REPORT TO THE SESSION OF THE SUPREME SOVIET
PRESIDIUM WHICH ACTED ON THE ACCORD (SUMMARY ON TASS ENGLISH
WIRE).

7. VIET NAM. COMMENTATOR YURI ZHUKOV, IN A PRAVDA PIECE
CALLED "SUSPICIOUS GUEST PERFORMANCES" REPLAYS WITH TYPICAL
SCORNFUL COMMENT RECENT WESTERN PRESS REPORTS ABOUT U.S.
MILITARY PERSONNEL "VISITING" SOUTH VIET NAM. HE TIES THE
EVENT TO THE PENTAGON'S ALLEGED ATTEMPT TO GET MORE AID FROM
A RELUCTANT CONGRESS, SAYS THAT IT SHOWS ANOTHER ATTEMPT TO
VIOLATE THE PARIS AGREEMENT, AND CLOSES BY SUMMARIZING THE
PRG FOREIGN MINISTRY STATEMENT OF FEBRUARY 8.
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